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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,024	08/20/2003	Peter Joseph Hollands	0142-0442P	5340
2292	7590	09/21/2005	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			HECKENBERG JR, DONALD H	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1722		

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/644,024	HOLLANDS ET AL.
	Examiner Donald Heckenberg	Art Unit 1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 10 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/079,556.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Binley (U.S. Pat. No. 4,746,523).

Binley discloses a molding apparatus. The apparatus comprises first and second dies (7A and 7B) defining a substantially spherical mold cavity (8), with the dies being separable from one another (see Fig. 2). As evidence from Figure 1, the dies have a wall thickness which is smaller than one-half the average diameter of the mold cavity. Both of the dies have a runner hole (6) of sufficient size for the introduction of molding material into the mold cavity (cl. 2, ll. 48-51).

It is noted that claim 1 recites that the defined mold is "for manufacturing pellets of hot-melt ink" and that the runner holes are of size sufficient "for the introduction of ink for the manufacture of [the] pellets into the mold cavity." The use of the ink as the molding material in order to produce pellets relates to the intended use of the claimed mold, rather than the

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actual mold structure. It is well settled that the intended use of an apparatus is not germane to the issue of patentability of the apparatus. In re Casey, 370 F.2d 576, 580 152 USPQ 235, 238 (CCPA 1967); In re Otto, 312 F.2d 937, 939, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963); MPEP § 2115. In the instant case, Binley discloses an apparatus with all of the structural features defined in the claimed mold. Moreover, there does not appear to be any reason why the mold could not be used with ink as the molding material. Binley therefore anticipates the claim, regardless of the recited uses.

3. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Oldham (U.S. Pat. No. 2,031,786).

Oldham discloses a molding apparatus. The apparatus comprises first and second dies (8 and 9) defining a substantially mold cavity (see Fig. 4), with the dies being separable from one another. As evidence from Figure 4, the dies have a wall thickness which is smaller than one-half the average diameter of the mold cavity. Both of the dies have a runner hole (14) of sufficient size for the introduction of molding material into the mold cavity.

As described above in conjunction with the rejection in view of Binley, the recitation of the mold of claim 1 being used

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to manufacture pellets of hot-melt ink is not germane to the issue of patentability of the claimed apparatus. Oldham discloses an apparatus with all of the structural features defined in the claimed mold. Moreover, there does not appear to be any reason why the mold could not be used with ink as the molding material. Oldham therefore anticipates the claim, regardless of the recited uses.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oldham in view of Simonds (U.S. Pat. No. 6,350,114) or Murphy et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,769,900).

Oldham discloses the mold as described above. Oldham further discloses the mold to have a heating means (including the blowing of hot steam air) operatively associated with the dies (see p. 1, cl. 2, l. 51 - p. 2, cl. 1, l. 3). Oldham further discloses the mold to have vents which could act as runner holes (17) for the introduction of air into the mold

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cavity. Note the discussion of the use of the apparatus described above.

Oldham does not explicitly disclose the mold to be made of a metal or a metal alloy. The use of metal or metal alloys for the construction of molds of the type disclosed by Oldham is, however, well known in the art. Simonds for example, discloses molding dies made from steel or aluminum (see cl. 2, ll. 18-22). Murphy also discloses a mold of the type disclosed by Oldham wherein the mold is made from aluminum (see cl. 29, ll. 20-21). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have used a metal such as aluminum for the construction of the mold dies disclosed by Oldham because such a metal is well known in the art as suitable for making the molding dies as evidenced by Simonds and Murphy.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection described above.

It is noted that Applicant has argued with respect to the previous rejections that none of the previously used rejections are specifically designed for the manufacture of pellets of hot melt ink. Applicant more specifically argues that the mold has

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a runner hole specifically for the introduction of ink into the mold cavity.

As described above, the making of pellets of ink with the claimed mold relates to the use of the mold, rather than the molds structure. It is the structure, not use which defines the patentability of a claimed apparatus. The prior art, in this case, discloses a runner hole for the introduction of molding material into the mold. The mold is not structurally distinguished from the prior art with the mere recitation that the runner hole is for the introduction ink molding material.

9. Claims 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a mold as defined in claim 8 of the instant application. The closest prior art disclosed by Oldham and Binley is described above. Neither of these references teaches or suggests a heating means in the form of a heating block containing a plurality of

recesses for accommodating a plurality of molds. Moreoever, there is no apparent reason or suggestion in the prior art to combine Oldham and Binley with such a structure.

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald

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Heckenberg whose telephone number is (571) 272-1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith, can be reached at (571) 272-1166. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <<http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free).


9-19-5
Donald Heckenberg
Primary Examiner
A.U. 1722